

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A filter material adapted for the passage therethrough of a fluid to remove a pollutant from the fluid as the fluid passes through said filter material, said filter material comprising

a sheet-like matrix in which is incorporated a material comprising a base formed substantially of cellulose fibers onto which is adsorbed a composition comprising one or more aliphatic carboxylic acids having hydrocarbon chains consisting of 8 to 20 carbon atoms.

19. (previously presented) A filter material as claimed in claim 18, wherein the one or more aliphatic carboxylic acids have hydrocarbon chains consisting of 10 to 18 carbon atoms.

20. (currently amended) A filter material as claimed in claim 18, wherein the one or more carboxylic acids are selected from the group comprising consisting of stearic acid, [[and]] palmitic acid and mixtures thereof.

21. (previously presented) A filter material as claimed in claim 18, wherein the matrix comprises a non-woven fibrous material.

22. (previously presented) A filter material as claimed in claim 18, wherein the matrix comprises an open-cell foam material.

23. (previously presented) A filter material as claimed in claim 18, wherein the matrix comprises a cotton or viscose gauze.

24-29. (Canceled)

30. (previously presented) The filter material of claim 18 wherein the matrix, prior to incorporation therein of said material comprising a base formed substantially of cellulose fibers, has a density no greater than 0.25 gcm^{-3} .

31. (previously presented) The filter material of claim 30 wherein said density is 0.01 to 0.18 gcm^{-3} .

32. (previously presented) The filter material of claim 31 wherein said matrix has a thickness of about 3 mm to about 4 mm.

33. (previously presented) The filter material of claim 18 wherein said cellulose fibers, by virtue of said one

or more aliphatic carboxylic acids being adsorbed thereon,
comprise hydrophobic hydrocarbon chains projecting therefrom.

34. (canceled)